

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 L-02

TAR-01 AGR-10 FEA-01 INT-05 OES-05 /085 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8014

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 173

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 10012

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, PFOR, EEC, IR

SUBJECT: FRG/IRAN: THE COMMISSION'S VIEW ON DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR
OIL PRODUCTS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9937

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 18 EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET PRESENTED THE COMMISSION'S VIEWS ON THE GERMAN REQUEST FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR SOME 15-20 MILLION TONS PER YER OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS RESULTING FROM A JOINT VENTURE IN IRAN. (EC ENERGY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT IS REPORTED IN SEPTTEL.) SIMONET SAID THAT THE COMMISSION OBJECTED TO THE GERMAN PROPOSAL BECAUSE:

A. THE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT GRANT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT UNILATERALLY IN ADVANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND IRAN ON TRADE RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY TO A COUNTRY WHICH HAS NOT BEEN ESPECIALLY "GENEROUS" IN THE PAST;

B. THE COMMISSION AND THE ENERGY COMMITTEE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE EFFECT THAT THE IMPORTATION OF REFINED PRODUCTS WILL HAVE ON THE COMMUNITY'S REFINING INDUSTRY. SIMONET SAID IT WAS ANTICIPATED

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THERE WOULD BE A 20 PERCENT EXCESS IN REFINING CAPACITY WITHIN

THE COMMUNITY BY 1978. FURTHER IMPORTATION OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, RATHER THAN CRUDE OIL, WOULD SERVE TO MAKE THIS EXCESS CAPACITY PERMANENT.

C. SIMONET ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE QUESTION OF DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR THE PRODUCTS OF THE (FRG) REFINERY PROJECT IS NOT CRUCIAL TO ITS PROFITABILITY. GREENWALD

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